

WEAVERHOUSE EQUINE NEWS

www.weaverhouse-equine.com 0845 519 8614

WINTER 2013 WINTER 21013 WINTER 2013 WINTER2013

WeaverHouse Equine treats horses all over the UK and Channel Islands. If you would like your horse treating, please contact us and we will try to arrange an appointment for you asap. The call out fee can be shared amongst several horses - for full details call 0845 519 8614



Cosy legs – on those chilly winter days try wearing one or two pairs of tights under your jodhpurs, they are great for insulation – jockeys swear by it!

Cosy hands - There's nothing worse than cold wet gloves when you are riding and ice cold water when you are washing those buckets out! Brrrr! Keep a pair of rubber gloves handy to put on over your gloves when washing buckets, this will keep your hands warm and dry! You can also wear a pair of disposable / latex gloves under your riding gloves to stop your hands getting wet during riding.

Don't forget to keep your horse warm too ! Exercise blankets are a must on these freezing days out riding.

Hi Everybody, and may I firstly take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2013 from all of us at WeaverHouse Equine. It has been a busy few months since I last wrote to you, and before I know it, Winter is upon us. Ben and I are having a great time, although he is really not impressed with the 0700 starts for his workouts ! We have a new Equine Receptionist called Morag. I know many of you have spoken to her regarding your appointments. Morag is really loving to get to know you all, and has been out with Adam on the road to see exactly what treatment involves - and has really enjoyed the experience ! Recruitment and selection at WeaverHouse Equine and has a vacancy for an Equine Body worker to work alongside Adam. For more information contact aa68@hotmail.com or call 0845 519 8614. Interviews will be taking place in the first week of March 13. Adam has recently visited Guernsey and I would like to say a massive thank you to Margo for all her help in organising this, and looking after him. Not only that, he also has his luncheon made by Margo. Having tasted her home made chocolate cake, well, envious, me ? Of course not !!!! Big thank you to Vicky as well for your help. Winter is a challenging time for horses and riders, please be careful, whether hacking out, competing, or just having general fun. Look after yourselves and your beloved animals and let us all look forward to Spring and some lovely dry weather ! Kindest Regards, Andy - Practice Manager

Hacking out! Years ago, I used to hack my horses on busy roads. Drivers would slow down, and I would nod my head and say thank you. I can not believe how this has changed. Some drives, and not all, amaze me at the speed they drive whilst passing a horse out on the road. Ask them to slow down, wave your hand and say thank you. Hacking out should be a pleasure - be careful, even more so in the Winter.

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FOCUS ON



MUD FEVER

Mud fever can be a time-consuming and difficult condition to treat, with efforts to manage the symptoms often frustrated when the owner has no choice but to turn horses back out into the environment that aggravated the condition in the first place.

Although it is not always possible to guarantee complete protection, half the battle lies in effective preventive treatment.

Methods of prevention

To prevent mud fever, keep horses' legs as clean and dry as possible. There is some argument over the best way to do this. Leaving mud to dry before it is brushed off avoids the risk of chapping due to cold hosing and drying, but may not be practical when there are time constraints.

Hosing should not cause problems, providing legs are dried thoroughly afterwards. Find what works best for you and make it part of your routine. Using barrier creams or protective boots, such as Equi-Chaps, can also help.

Horses with thin skin, white heels or a lot of feather are likely to be more susceptible to the condition. Keep an eye out for early warning signs. If horses are turned out, it is advisable to keep their feathers clipped.

The condition must be managed to prevent it spreading, if possible, isolate horses with mud fever. The dermatophilus bacteria can survive for up to 42 months in removed scabs, so these should be disposed of carefully and not allowed to fall into bedding or pasture. Shared grooming kit should also be disinfected.

Treating the established condition

Remove scabs to treat the skin, but be aware that doing this forcibly could aggravate surrounding tissue. Many mud fever treatments soften scabs so they fall away naturally

Prevent skin from coming into further contact with wet or muddy earth while the condition is being treated. Horses should be stabled, if possible.

When scabs have been removed, treat the infection with a product that attacks the bacteria, or an antibiotic cream in more advanced cases.

Once the bacteria is destroyed, keep on protecting the area while new skin and hair grows. If it is not possible to stable your horse, apply a barrier cream when the horse is turned out.

Choosing a barrier cream

There are several creams available for topical application and, ideally, the cream you chose should provide:

- a bactericide to fight the infection
- a soothing or emollient ingredient to make the skin more supple, prevent further cracking and loosen scabs
- a waterproof barrier against further invasion by mud and wet
- anti-inflammatory agents and ingredients that promote healing

